

(b) detecting the presence of the first fragment, the second fragment, or the first and second fragments, the presence thereof indicating the presence of the polynucleotide analyte.

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 were originally filed in the present Application. In a Preliminary Amendment (dated September 13, 2000), Claims 1-44 were cancelled, Claims 45-65 were added (copied from US Pat. 6,110,677), and Claims 69-78 were also added (intended to encompass the subject matter claimed in US Patents 6,110,677 and 6,121,001). In the present communication, Claims 79-107 have been added, copied from US Pat. 6,121,001, to preserve the right to provoke an interference proceeding with the patentees. Support for the new claims is found throughout the Application. The currently pending claims (Claims 45-107) are attached to this communication for the Examiner's convenience.

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